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the severed meat tray 10 into the pass-through opening
82 and onto an exit conveyer (not shown).

In the Claims

✓
Add new claims 17-21.

✓
Amend claim 1.

✓
Replace the claims with the following clean version of the entire set of pending claims, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(I). Cancel all previous versions of any pending claim.

- into C1*
- B3
1. (Amended) A thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray trimmed from a thermal plastic expanded foam web, comprising:
a substantially rectangular bottom wall;
side walls extending upward and outward from the bottom wall
integrally interconnected to each other at four corners;
each of the side walls having an inclined lower section and an upper section that extends upward terminating in a lip that extends outward around the periphery of the tray; and
which one?
the upper wall section having internal inclined corner surfaces extending upward and outward to the lip at the four corners, each corner surface subtending an angle greater than an angle subtended by the respective corner and specifically provided to receive an internal complementary mating corner

alignment fixture to maintain the tray accurately aligned at the corners as the tray is being trimmed from the thermal plastic expanded foam web, and each inclined corner surface forming an obtuse angle with the bottom wall that is less than a corresponding obtuse angle formed between a corresponding lower wall section and the bottom wall.

2. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the upper sections of the side walls have inside reinforcing ribs formed therein in which the inclined corner surfaces are indented into the ribs at the corners of the side walls.

3. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined corner surfaces extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 105 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

4. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined corner surfaces extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 100 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

5. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the lower sections of the side walls are inclined upward and outward at an angle of between 110 degrees and 140 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

6. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined corner surfaces is curved having an arc of greater than 90 degrees relative to a center of curvature.

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7. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined corner surfaces is curved and wherein the curved inclined corner surface extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 105 degrees.

8. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the lower sections of the side walls are inclined upward and outward relative to the bottom wall at an inclined angle of between 110 degrees and 140 degrees and wherein at least one of the inclined corner surfaces is curved and wherein the curved inclined corner surface extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 105 degrees.

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9. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the upper section of the side walls has inside wall surfaces that are ribbed and extend upward and outward between the lower section and the lip at an inclined angle relative to the bottom wall of between 110 and 140 degrees.

10. The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the corner surfaces are conical shaped having a steep angle of between 94 and 105 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

✓
Add the following new claims 17-24:

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17. (New) A thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray trimmed from a thermal plastic expanded foam web, comprising:
a substantially rectangular bottom wall;
side walls extending upward and outward from the bottom wall integrally interconnected to each other at four corners;
each of the side walls having a lower section with an inclined inside surface and an upper section that extends upward terminating in a lip that extends outward around the periphery of the tray; and
the upper section ^{which one} having internal inclined inside corner surfaces extending upward and outward to the lip at the four corners, each corner surface subtending an angle greater than an angle subtended by the respective corner,

and each inclined inside corner surface forming an obtuse angle with the bottom wall that is less than a corresponding obtuse angle formed between the lower section and the bottom wall to provide a conical alignment surface at each corner configured to interact with an alignment structure of an article trim press.

BK 18. (New) The meat tray of claim 17 wherein the conical alignment surface is specifically provided to receive an internal complementary mating corner alignment fixture of a trim press to maintain the tray accurately aligned at the corners as the tray is being trimmed from the thermal plastic expanded foam web by the trim press.

19. (New) The meat tray of claim 17 wherein the lower section provides a coarse alignment surface and the conical alignment surface of the upper section provides a fine alignment surface.

20. (New) The meat tray of claim 19 wherein an outer surface of the lower section and the conical alignment surface cooperate to provide a bifurcated alignment structure including the outer surface of the lower section which cooperates during a severing operation with a female die member to provide a coarse alignment structure and the conical alignment surface of the upper section which cooperates with a complementary alignment surface of an alignment fixture on a male die member to provide a fine alignment structure. ^{Separate into two parts}

21. (New) A molded plastic overwrap tray, comprising:

a bottom wall;

at least one side wall extending upward and outward from the bottom wall, the side wall having an inclined lower section and an upper section that extends upward and outward around the periphery of the tray;

the upper wall section having a plurality of spaced-apart internal inclined corner surfaces extending upward and outward to the periphery of the tray, each corner surface subtending an angle greater than an angle subtended by the respective corner and specifically provided to receive an internal complementary mating corner alignment fixture to maintain the tray accurately aligned at the corners as the tray is being trimmed from the thermal plastic expanded foam web, and each inclined corner surface forming an obtuse angle with the bottom wall that is less than a corresponding obtuse angle formed between the lower wall section and the bottom wall.

22. (New) The tray of claim 21 wherein the bottom wall comprises a rectangular bottom wall and the at least one side wall comprises four side walls configured in a rectangular array with adjacent pairs of the side walls each forming a generally rectangular corner therebetween.

23. (New) The tray of claim 22 wherein the plurality of spaced-apart internal inclined corner surfaces comprises four spaced-apart internal inclined

corner surfaces, one provided at each corner of the tray, and wherein each corner surface provides a conical alignment surface forming a steep obtuse angle relative to the bottom wall.

24. (New) The tray of claim 23 wherein each internal inclined alignment corner surface is recessed into an inner surface of an adjacent pair of the side walls so as to provide a concave, conical alignment surface therein.

A marked-up version showing amendments to any claims being changed is provided in one or more accompanying pages separate from this amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii). Any claim not accompanied by a marked-up version has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version, except that marked-up versions are not being supplied for any added claim or canceled claim.